

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 9-20 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of ~~pending~~ U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/467,602 filed on December 20, 1999, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,552,164, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/215,818 filed on December 18, 1998, ~~now-allowed~~ which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,379,671, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~issued~~ U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/912,276, filed on August 15, 1997, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,183,952, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/697,105, filed on August 19, 1996, now abandoned, as well as a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/912,149, filed on August 15, 1997, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/697,106, filed on August 19, 1996, now abandoned, and pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/962,094 filed on October 31, 1997 and pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/516,444 filed on February 20, 2000 from which priority is claimed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120 and which are all incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.